

understand Senator Chambers wants a big hammer. This is certainly a big hammer. I don't know if it's a hammer that necessarily matches up to the crime of selling cigarettes to minors. So, with that, I'd oppose Senator Chambers' amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, perhaps this is a Don Quixote, Sancho Panza jousting with the windmill because, despite what Senator Moore says, there is a tremendous amount of money in the sale of tobacco products, and that's why a product that kills so many people is allowed to be legal and is supported by so many people. Senator Moore, let me tell you what the tobacco industry does. Maybe they don't own you, but there is a caucus of black legislators that meets every year, and I have never attended one of their meetings, and I never will because they accept money from the tobacco industry. And it is in the community where black youngsters and older people and those in between live where you find the many billboards advertising the tobacco products. It is in our community that you find targeting of people for the sale and purchase of these tobacco products. And you know why this is done, Senator Moore? Because when you lose 435,000 customers a year you've got to replace them. This is why old Joe Camel is used to target young people, your young people, my young people, all of our young people whom we stand up here, so many times hypocritically, and say we're concerned about. There is no issue that has come before this Legislature that touched on the health and welfare of young people that would be as damaging to them as the use of tobacco products. But you will find people standing on this floor making appeals to family values, traditional values, concern for our young people setting role models and all the rest of it, but not one of those items has ever been as hurtful to our young people as the use of tobacco products. So, if I use the term hypocrisy, I think it is justified. Cigarettes don't kill you all at once, they kill you in small doses, in the same way that if I fed you small doses of strychnine, but if I fed you small doses of that poison and you died, I would be charged with homicide. If you were a person who wanted to take your own life and I assisted you, I commit a crime by assisting a suicide, in Nebraska it's a crime to do that. But if I sell you tobacco products that are going to kill you, I'm not guilty of anything. As a matter of fact, I'm an entrepreneur, I'm respected. You know the ones targeted in addition to those in minority communities and the young of all